

68TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT  
No. 1573

## REVISION OF THE LAWS

FEBRUARY 24, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. FITZGERALD, from the Committee on Revision of the Laws, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. J. Res. 141]

The Committee on Revision of the Laws, to whom was referred the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 141) providing for the appointment of a commission to consolidate, codify, revise, and reenact the general and permanent laws of the United States in force December 2, 1923, having considered the same, report thereon with amendments and as so amended recommend that it pass.

Amend the joint resolution as follows:

Strike out everything after the resolving clause and insert the following in lieu thereof:

First. That there is hereby established a joint congressional commission to be known as the Joint Congressional Commission on Revision of the Laws (hereinafter referred to as the "commission"), and to be composed of two members of the Committee on Revision of the Laws of the Senate, to be selected by such committee, and two members of the Committee on Revision of the Laws of the House of Representatives, to be selected by such committee. Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection. No person shall remain a member of the commission after he has ceased to be a member of either Committee on the Revision of Laws, except that any such member may retain his membership upon the commission until his successor is selected. The commission may execute its functions irrespective of vacancies in its membership. The commission shall elect one of its members as chairman. The commission is authorized to have prepared, under its general direction and supervision, a consolidation and codification (with only such revision as may be necessary to effect such consolidation and codification) of the general and permanent statutes of the United States in force December 6, 1925, or such later dates as may be found feasible and advisable as the work proceeds. The commission is authorized to report from time to time to the Senate and House of Representatives the results of its work, and to accompany any such report with such recommendations and drafts of bills as it deems advisable.

Second. That the commission is authorized to select and employ an executive director at an annual salary to be determined by the commission. The director shall give his whole time to the work and shall report to the commission. He is

authorized to select, employ, and fix the compensation of such expert, clerical, and stenographic assistants as he may deem necessary; but the commission shall fix the maximum number of assistants to be employed and the maximum salary to be paid to any assistant. The commission may authorize such expenditures as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution, and all expenditures under this resolution shall be paid one-half from the contingent fund of the Senate and one-half from the contingent fund of the House, upon vouchers signed by the chairman of the commission and approved by the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate and the Committee on Accounts of the House, respectively. The total expenditures of the commission for the period ending January 1, 1926, shall not exceed \$50,000.

Third. That the commission shall avail itself of the matter contained in H. R. 12, Sixty-eighth Congress, as passed by the House of Representatives January 7, 1924, as an aid in the preparation of such drafts of bills as the commission may recommend for enactment.

Fourth. That any draft of a bill submitted by the commission shall—

- (a) Contain in the body thereof, without resort to the use of an appendix or supplement, all the matter recommended for enactment in such draft;
- (b) Have appended thereto an adequate index;
- (c) Have incorporated therein or appended thereto references to the sources from which each part of the draft is derived; and
- (d) Have incorporated therein, appended thereto, or be accompanied by, a report containing such explanatory notes as may be necessary.

Fifth. That the members of the commission shall serve without additional compensation therefor but shall receive their necessary traveling expenses and actual expenses while engaged in the work of the commission during the recesses of Congress.

Sixth. That the heads of the various executive departments, independent establishments, and other agencies in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Government are hereby requested actively to cooperate with the commission in its work so far as it relates to their respective jurisdictions, and they are authorized to detail to the commission any of their employees to assist the commission in its work. The director, subject to the limitations of paragraph "Second," is authorized to employ (with the consent of the appointing authority) persons in the service of the United States, not so detailed, for special work to be performed outside of regular office hours and to pay such persons a compensation for the work so done, and such persons are authorized to accept such employment and compensation irrespective of any provision of existing law prohibiting or limiting such employment or compensation.

Seventh. That the legislative reference service of the Library of Congress shall cooperate with the commission and render it such assistance as may be consistent with its other duties.

Eighth. The commission is authorized to have the printing and binding of any report or drafts of bills to be made under this resolution done at the Government Printing Office and charged to the appropriation for printing and binding to be done for Congress. Drafts of bills submitted by the commission shall be printed in such style and form as the commission may determine, and such style and form shall, to the extent recommended by the commission, be followed in all the stages to final enactment of any bills embodying such drafts. The action of the commission under this paragraph shall be subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on Printing.

Amend the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas the President of the United States in his annual message to the Congress dated December 6, 1923, recommended that a commission or committee be created to undertake a revision of the statute law of the United States; and

Whereas the consolidation, codification, and revision embodied in the bill H. R. 12, Sixty-eighth Congress, furnishes a basis of great value for the work of such a commission: Therefore be it

Amend the title so as to read:

A joint resolution providing for the appointment of a joint congressional commission to consolidate, codify, and revise the general and permanent laws of the United States.

The revision of the Federal laws made under the supervision and direction of the late chairman of the Revision of Laws Committee, Col. Edward C. Little, has been passed unanimously by the House of Representatives in three Congresses, the Sixty-sixth, Sixth-seventh, and Sixty-eighth. The bill H. R. 12 was passed by the House of Representatives in the Sixty-eighth Congress on January 7, 1924, but no action was taken by the Senate with reference to any of the work of the House until the passage by the Senate of this joint resolution, S. J. Res. 141, on February 16, 1925, which sets out in the preamble the language of the President's message urging a revision and codification of the statute law of the United States. Your committee reports the resolution, with amendments which embody the result of conferences between the Revision of Laws Committee of both the House and the Senate, and the unanimous agreement on the only method likely to be successful.



The revision of the Federal laws made under the supervision and direction of the late chairman of the House of Representatives, Col. Edward C. Little, has been passed unanimously by the House of Representatives in their Congress, the sixteenth, and the seventh and eighth. The bill H. R. 112 was passed by the House of Representatives in the sixteenth Congress on January 5, 1924, but no action was taken by the Senate until the year of the year of the House until the passage by the Senate of the joint resolution, S. J. Res. 141, on February 16, 1925, which was out in the preamble the language of the Federal laws, and a revision and codification of the same law of the United States. The committee reports the resolution with amendments which embody the result of conferences between the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the unanimous agreement in both the House and the Senate, and the unanimous agreement in the only method likely to be successful.